

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 769

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Charles Willoughby upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens who are dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in agriculture have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Charles Willoughby, who was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 3, 2012, for his life's work as a farmer and agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, born in 1930, Mr. Willoughby was the second of five sons born to A.H. and Edna Willoughby and was raised on the family's Grade B dairy farm; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Mt. Juliet High School in 1947, Charles Willoughby earned his bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1951 and returned to Mt. Juliet to become the principal operator of the dairy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willoughby was joined in holy matrimony with Dorothy Roach in 1954, and their blessed union produced two children: Al and Don Willoughby and two grandchildren: Dale and Kate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willoughby ran the dairy operation with eighty cows, as well as raising the majority of corn, hay, and silage needed for feed, along with tobacco; and

WHEREAS, after the dairy cattle were sold in 1980, he brilliantly transformed the farming operation into soybeans, wheat, beef, cattle, and hay, which continue to be the main commodities produced on the farm today; and

WHEREAS, in addition to maintaining his farming enterprise, Mr. Willoughby has also served with acumen and alacrity as a high school agriculture teacher and county vocational director, masterfully overseeing the expansion of the program; and

WHEREAS, a highly-respected leader in the agriculture industry, Charles Willoughby has served with distinction on the Wilson County Commission, West Wilson Utility District Commission, Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and UT Institute of Agriculture Development Board; he is also a life member of FFA Alumni and was recently recognized as a member of the Tennessee FFA Foundation's Century Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willoughby is also a dedicated civic leader, rendering sterling service as a FFA Advisor, scout master, and president of Mt. Juliet Kiwanis, Mt. Juliet Little League, and the Tennessee Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart servant of the Almighty, Mr. Willoughby has been a devout member of both the Hermitage and Cloyd's Presbyterian churches, serving his Lord and fellow believers as a Deacon and Elder; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Willoughby was named Outstanding Young Farmer for Wilson County and received the Long Rifle Award; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor Mr. Willoughby for his lifetime of achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Charles Willoughby upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame and recognize his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.